
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School nurses recognized for service to public school students and staff members

COLUMBIA – Two school nurses have been recognized for their professionalism and service to South Carolina's public schools.

Barbara Ramsbottom, a registered nurse at Lakewood Elementary School in the Horry County School District, has been named the School Nurse (RN) of the Year, and Susan Plyler, a licensed practical nurse with the Lancaster County School District, has been named the School Health LPN of the Year.

The awards are presented annually by the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control to a registered nurse and a licensed practical nurse working in a school setting who provide outstanding school health services.

Ramsbottom has worked as a school nurse for 10 years. In addition to providing the direct health services necessary for keeping students at her school in the class and ready to learn, she works diligently to promote an overall school experience that supports a healthy lifestyle.

Ramsbottom helps to ensure that preventive services are available for students by partnering with a local dental clinic and sponsoring an annual health fair that is free and open to the community. She is an active member of her school's Coordinated School Health Committee, where she advocates for healthy food choices for students, worksite screening programs for staff and a school environment that is a safe place for students to learn and staff to work. She leads her school in giving back to the community by coordinating the collection of used eyeglasses and raising money for leukemia and lymphomas research. An active member of the South Carolina Association of School Nurses, she has maintained national certification as a school nurse since 2001.

Susan Plyler is the nurse at Kershaw Elementary School in Lancaster County. A nine-year veteran school nurse, she works closely with parents and health care providers in her community to ensure that students receive medications and health care. She works

with the registered nurse, who provides her clinical supervision, to ensure that individual health care plans are promptly established and that faculty and staff are trained appropriately to respond during emergencies.

Plyler is respected by students, parents, faculty and her fellow nurses for her knowledge in the area of diabetes management. In addition to ensuring that the necessary accommodations are made for students with diabetes, she organizes educational sessions related to diabetes for nurses in her school district and works with health care providers in her community to offer a community wellness fair to promote health awareness for diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and overall good health.

The South Carolina Association of School Nurses (SCASN) recently presented the Horry County School District with its School Health Services Award. This award is presented annually to honor an individual or entity – other than a school nurse – whose support of school nursing and school health promotion is exemplary.

SCASN promotes the delivery of quality health programs to the school population and school community by strengthening the growth of professional school health nurses and advancing the practice of school nursing.